

~~SECRET~~

B/ED

OCI NO. 1511
COPY NO. 10

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
12 January 1954

PRE-BERLIN CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS - IV

Moscow radio repeats hackneyed Soviet position on Germany:
A Moscow radio broadcast of 9 January maintains that the Western idea of free all-German elections is "something which is neither free nor all-German," and repeats the Kremlin's contention that the first step toward unifying Germany should be the formation of a provisional government. These allegations again suggest that the USSR is not prepared to compromise on the issue of free elections.

Recent East German propaganda on the forthcoming Berlin conference, however, has reflected the dilemma of the government, in the opinion of American officials in Berlin. It is trying to bolster the weak Communist position on German unity without raising false hopes among the East German people, who might turn to new riots if these hopes were disillusioned by a conference failure. The main theme has been a demand for German representation at the conference.

Soviet representative proposes meetings alternate between sectors: The Soviet representative at the preliminary meetings on a conference site first insisted that all meetings be held in the Soviet sector but then proposed the meetings be held alternately in the Soviet and Western sectors. The meeting was devoid of any recriminations, and American officials point out that while the Soviet representative was adamant in declining to accede to Western views, there is no indication that the USSR is deliberately using stalling tactics with a view to delaying the opening of the conference.

"Potemkin" preparation for conference: Huge quantities of food and textile goods are being imported from the USSR and Satellites into the Soviet sector of Berlin for sale and display during the conference. Instructions have been issued to state-owned stores and consumer cooperatives to display goods prominently and thus create the appearance of plenty.

[redacted] false brick fronts were being constructed to cover ruins near the Western sectors of Berlin.

State Dept. review completed

~~SECRET~~

Document No.	4
No Change in Class.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Auth.	HR 70-2
Date:	24 July 78

25X1

~~SECRET~~

On Soviet orders, also, steps have been reportedly taken to restore intersector telephone service in Berlin. Preparations include putting in order the cable net and technical equipment so that service can be resumed if the order comes.

~~SECRET~~